

With Edged Tools

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN

Author of "The Sowers," "Rotten's Corner," "From One Generation to Another," Etc.

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"Well, miss, at the moment he is in the drawing room. We bring him down there for the change of air in the afternoon. Likely as not, he's asleep."

And presently Jack Meredith, lying comfortably on the outskirt of life, heard light footsteps, but hardly heeded them. He knew that some one came into the room and stood silently by his couch for some seconds. He lazily unclosed his eyelids for a moment, not in order to see who was there, but with a view of intimating that he was not asleep. But he was not wholly conscious. To men accustomed to an active, energetic life a long illness is nothing but a period of complete rest. In his more active moments Jack Meredith sometimes thought that this rest of his was extending into a dangerously long period, but he was too weak to feel anxiety about anything.

Jocelyn moved away and busied herself noisily with one or two of those small duties of the sickroom which women see and men ignore. But she could not keep away. She came back and stood over him with a silent sense of possession which made that moment one of the happiest of her life. She remembered it in after years, and the complex feelings of utter happiness and complete misery that filled it.

At last a fluttering moth gave the excuse her heart longed for, and her fingers rested for a moment, light as the moth itself, upon his hair. There was something in the touch which made him open his eyes, uncomprehending at first, and then filled with a sudden life.

"Ah," he said, "you—you at last!"

He took her hand in both of his. He was weakened by illness and a great fatigue. Perhaps he was off his guard or only half awake.

"I never should have got better if you had not come," he said. Then suddenly he seemed to recall himself, and rose with an effort from his recumbent position.

"I do not know," he said with a return of his old half humorous manner, "whether to thank you first for your hospitality or to beg your pardon for making such unscrupulous use of it."

"Sit down," she said quietly. "You are not strong enough to stand about."

He obeyed her with a little laugh. "You do not know," he said, "how pleasant it is to see you, fresh and English looking. It is like a tonic, where is Maurice?"

"He will be here soon," she replied. "He is attending to the landing of the stores. We will soon make you strong and well, for we have come laden with cases of delicacies for your special delectation. Your father chose them himself."

"We did not expect you for another ten days," said Meredith after a little pause, as if anxious to change the subject. "Marie said that your brother's leave was not up until the week after next."

"We do not always take our full term," said she vaguely.

And he never saw it.

"As a matter of fact," she said lightly, "I suppose that you loathe all food?"

"Loathe it," he replied. He was still looking at her, as if in enjoyment of the Englishness and freshness of which he had spoken. "Simply loathe it. All Joseph's tact and patience are required to make me eat even eleven meals in the day. He would like thirteen."

At this moment Maurice came in—Maurice—beary, eager, full of life. He blustered in, kicking the furniture, throwing his own vitality into the atmosphere. Jocelyn knew that he liked Jack Meredith, and she knew more. She knew, namely, that Maurice Gordon was a different man when Jack Meredith was in Louisa. From Meredith's presence he seemed to gather a sense of security and comfort even as she did—a sense which in herself she understood (for women analyze love), but which in her brother puzzled her.

"Well, old chap," said Maurice, "glad to see you. I am glad to see you. Thank heaven you were bowled over by that confounded malaria, for otherwise we should have missed you."

"That is one way of looking at it," answered Meredith. But he did not go so far as to say that it was a way which had not previously suggested itself to him.

"Of course it is. The best way, I take it. Well, how do you feel?"

"Oh, much better, thanks. I have got on splendidly the last week, and better still the last five minutes! The worst of it is that I shall be getting well too soon and shall have to be off."

"Home?" inquired Maurice significantly.

Jocelyn moved uneasily.

"Yes, home."

"We don't often hear people say that they are sorry to leave Louisa," said Maurice.

"I will oblige you whenever you are taken with the desire," answered Jack lightly. "Louisa has been a very good friend to me. But I am afraid there is no choice. The doctor speaks very plain words about it. Besides, I am bound to go home."

"To sell the simlacine?" inquired Maurice.

"Yes."

"Have you the second crop with you?"

"Yes."

"And the trees have improved under

cultivation?"

"Yes," answered Jack rather wonderingly. "You seem to know a lot about it."

"Of course I do," replied Maurice boldly.

"From Durnovo?"

"Yes; he even offered to take me into partnership."

Jack turned on him in a flash.

"Did he indeed? On what conditions?"

"And then, when it was too late, Maurice saw his mistake. It was not the first time that the exuberance of his nature had got him into a difficulty."

"Oh, I don't know," he replied vaguely. "It's a long story. I'll tell you about it some day."

Jack would have left it there for the moment. Maurice Gordon had made his meaning quite clear by glancing significantly toward his sister. Her presence he intimidated debarred further explanation.

But Jocelyn would not have it thus. She shrewdly suspected the nature of the bargain proposed by Durnovo, and a sudden desire possessed her to have it all out.

"If you mean," she said, "that you cannot tell Mr. Meredith because I am here, you need not hesitate on that account."

Maurice laughed awkwardly and muttered something about matters of business. He was not good at this sort of thing. Besides, there was the initial handclapping knowledge that Jocelyn was so much cleverer than himself.

"Whether it is a matter of business or not," she cried, with glittering eyes, "I want you to tell Mr. Meredith now. He has a right to know. Tell him upon what condition Mr. Durnovo proposed to admit you into the simlacine."

Maurice still hesitated, bewildered, at a loss, such as men are when a seemingly secure secret is suddenly discovered to the world. He would still have tried to fend it off, but Jack Meredith with his keener perception saw that

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LONG SESSION OF THE LOWER BOARD

Grants Relief To Number of Citizens.

Passes Street Improvement Ordinances, Licenses and Minor Matters at Meeting.

WHAT THE SEWER WILL COST

The board of councilmen started out to adjourn last night after the filing of the finance committee's report, but business began to come so smoothly that the board remained in session until all business before it was transacted.

Councilman Herzog was absent. The minutes of the last regular and called meetings were read and adopted.

The matter of grading a fill to the Paducah Box and Basket factory on Caldwell street was referred to the street committee with power to act.

Mayor Yeiser presented a compromise with Mrs. Jessie Wicks of \$200 for damage on account of defective drainage in the hollow back of her property on North Fourth street between Madison and Harrison streets.

An estimate on an improvement to the drainage of the hollow amounting to \$50 was assessed against Mrs. Wicks. The solicitor recommended that this assessment be cancelled. The motion to ratify the compromise and exemption from assessment carried.

A contract with the West Kentucky Coal company for furnishing city fuel for the season, was ratified.

A contract with Bradley Bros. to furnish the city with stock feed for three months, was ratified.

A summons on the city, relative to an alley, was filed by E. G. Rudolph, administrator, of Catharine Hessig, was referred to the solicitor.

A protest against improving an alley between Sixth and Seventh streets, Kentucky avenue and Broadway, at the expense of property owners was filed. An ordinance had been ordered drafted for improving the alley.

Mayor Yeiser presented the costs in the Cornelia Johnson suit against the city, the costs amounting to \$70.60, besides a \$2,000 judgment. The matter was referred to the joint finance committee.

Engineer L. A. Washington stated that the traction company wished to extend the Broadway culvert in order to extend its lines. The company inquired if the city was to do the work, or the traction company. The company agrees to pay for eight feet of the fill. The question was raised whether to have the fill from "property line to property line" or just the eight feet.

Councilman Katterjohn made the motion for an extension of the culvert from "property line to property line." The motion carried.

Engineer Washington stated that a ravine had to be improved by a culvert on Nineteenth street if the traction company filled in. He asked for instructions. He thought the traction company should pay a part of the costs. The question raised was whether the traction company would stand a part of the expense. Councilman Katterjohn thought that the traction company should stand part of culvert and the city the remainder. Mayor Yeiser did not think the city should stand any part of this expense; that the traction company should stand whatever expense is incurred in extending its tracks, now that it has gained the right of way over Nineteenth street. All motions were withdrawn and no action taken.

A prayer from Mrs. C. L. Henderson for relief from over-assessment was referred.

The matter of building three hose dry houses at the fire stations was referred with power to act.

The amendment that any minor who secures liquor of an intoxicating nature by misrepresentation, be fined from \$25 to \$50, was adopted. The motion for the traction company.

How a Section Hand Saved a Train.

Riding at night in a comfortable Pullman berth across continent, the passenger will occasionally wake up, send one flying look into the darkness, listen to the steady rhythm of the wheels beneath him, and turn over and go to sleep again with a vague feeling of gratitude toward the man in the engine cab, who is piloting the train safely through the night. How often does he give a thought to the section hand, the man who makes the track, and who holds in his hand the life not only of the passenger, but the engineer besides?

In "The Makin' of a Hayro," in the November McClure's, G. W. Ogden has written the story of the section boss and his men in such a way as to make it impossible for the reader ever again to leave this obscure personage out of account. The dramatic incident around which the tale centers is the thrilling rescue of a passenger train full of women and children by one of the very heroes whose life, and that of his fellows, the writer pictures with grim humor and striking realism.

Persistent—It's useless, sir. I have already refused to marry you twice. "That's all right. I only wanted you to marry me once."—Browning's Magazine.

"Did you have a good time chaperoning the party last night?" Young Matron—Lively. All of the girls were so much older than I.

done by its lines.

The city engineer was instructed to furnish a report of the number of square feet in sewer district No. 2.

The sale of the delinquent tax bills by Treasurer John Dorian was ratified. The total was \$4,446.51.

The report from the city tax book supervisors was received and filed.

The report of the treasurer for the month of October was received and filed.

The statement of the finance committee, amounting to \$17,330.81 was received and filed.

Councilman Kolb moved that \$200 be proffered Mrs. Jessie Wicks in full settlement of her suit against the city. It carried.

Ordinances Acted On.

Ordinance for sidewalks on South Fourth from Norton street to Husband street. Second passage.

Ordinance for the reconstruction of Nineteenth street from Broadway to Mayfield road. This carries with it the necessity of a culvert between Kentucky avenue and Broadway.

The solicitor stated that provisions for the culvert can be made after the passage of the ordinance.

The ordinance was given first passage.

The report of the chief of police was filed.

Residents on West Jefferson street asked for relief from impassable streets in their section of the city. The board once turned down the request. They asked that the action be rescinded. The action was rescinded and on motion of Councilman Katterjohn, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets were ordered graded from Jefferson street to Broadway.

The city engineer was ordered to give the traction company the proper grade to lower its tracks on Jefferson street.

Licenses Acted On.

J. P. Fowler, 200 Kentucky avenue, was granted a retail liquor license.

ON BATTLESHIP

IS THE CAPITOL

After Thursday of This Week For A Few Days.

How Louisiana Is to Be Fitted Up For Reception of Nation's Executive.

OFFICE IN SMOKING ROOM.

New York, Nov. 6.—After next Thursday the capitol of the United States will be on the new battleship Louisiana, and when President Roosevelt sails for Panama that day he will have the finest quarters ever fitted up on an American man-of-war. The navy department has left nothing undone for his convenience and comfort on this trip, and with the aid of the powerful wireless apparatus which has been installed he will be in constant communication with Washington.

The work of refitting the ship for the president's trip has been done at the New York navy yard, and the last finishing touches were put on her yesterday, so that he will be ready today to sail for Hampton Roads, where she will take on supplies. New furniture has been installed, one article being a large new desk, where the official papers will be kept during the trip.

The president's quarters occupy nearly one quarter of the space of one deck, and have been made by tearing out the doors and throwing the quarters of the admiral and captain into one suite. They are separated from the rest of the ship by a temporary bulkhead, and the president will have as much privacy as he would have in the white house.

The smoking room, where the president will attend to his official business, is at the stern of the battleship. There is a large reception room where the state dinners will be held when the president entertains the representatives of other governments, and a large living room for the accommodation of the party. The admiral's quarters will be used as the president's stateroom, and Mrs. Roosevelt will occupy a large stateroom designed for the admiral's chief of staff. There are six staterooms and bathrooms for other members of the party.

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